



Town of Arlington
Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Board of Health
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**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 20, 2015
Ground Floor Conference Room
Arlington Senior Center
5:30pm**

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Marie Walsh Condon, Mr. Kenneth Kohlberg, Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick

Staff in Attendance: James Feeney, Health Compliance Officer, Natasha Waden, Health Compliance Officer, Karen Dillon AYHSC Outreach Coordinator

Others in Attendance: Doug Kahn, Ashot Papoyan, Paul Colussi, Beth Graham, Joanna Cararelli, Jessica Winstanley, Amanda Camelio, Julie Powers, Ione Heigham, Cindy Bouvier, Morgen Sarpeshkar

Recording Secretary: Laura Munsey, Health and Human Services Administrative Assistant

Meeting called to order by Dr. Marie Walsh Condon at 5:35 pm.

A motion was made by Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, which was seconded by Mr. Kenneth Kohlberg, to approve the April 1, 2015 minutes as submitted.

Vote: Motion approved unanimously (3-0)

Presentation: AHS 84 Club: Tobacco Mapping Project

Ms. Karen Dillon, Youth and Community Outreach Coordinator for the Arlington Youth Health & Safety Coalition, informed the Board that she has been working with a group of Arlington High School Students who are part of the 84 Club (youth fighting for a tobacco-free generation in MA). They have received a grant from Health Resources in Action to map out and assess tobacco retailer locations in town and their proximity to places children gather, as well as marketing strategies that may be targeting youth within the community.

The students facilitated the presentation and displayed the map they created. They highlighted and referenced 17 tobacco retailer locations as well as schools and other popular places students may frequent such as parks, playgrounds, and movie theaters.

They shared with the Board their observations. They noted that AHS is surrounded by tobacco retailers. They visited each establishment and observed that many of the tobacco signs are placed next to everyday items, such as M&M's and Energy Drinks. They commented on the very prominent signage, as well as the colors that are used in the displays. They referenced signage on doors and windows that are along the walking routes to school.

They further stated they have learned that the big tobacco industry conducts extensive research on colors and fonts to be used, as well as marketing strategies for their tobacco products. They learned the tobacco industry refers to youth as “replacement smokers”.

The students expressed concern over E-cigarettes, and shared they are very prevalent and popular with kids. They informed the Board that students have been observed using them in school, and also referenced a case where a teacher found one and didn’t know what it was. They stated E-cigarettes come in many shapes and sizes, and some are small and may look just like a pen.

The students informed the Board their next step is to present their findings to the Ottoson Middle School Students.

The Board thanked the students and commended them on their thoughtful analysis. They were impressed with their desire to pass their findings on to other students, and referenced the value of hearing this information directly from their peers. They were invited back to provide updates in the future.

Hearing: Application to Work with rDNA; Tetragenetics – 91 Mystic Street

Mr. James Feeney informed the Board on May 12, 2015 he received an application from Tetragenetics, Inc. for a permit to work with recombinant DNA and Biological Agents. He stated that on April 11, 2012 the Arlington Board of Health voted to adopt the “Biosafety and Recombinant DNA Regulations, and this is the first permit application received by the Arlington Board of Health. He informed the Board he reached out to the City of Cambridge Board of Health and it was reported Tetragenetics has a history of compliance.

Dr. Paul Colussi, the Director of Protein Expression, Tetragenetics Inc. addressed the Board and provided a power point presentation detailing who they are, and what they do. He reported Tetragenetics Inc. is currently located at 85 Bolton Street in Cambridge, and have been there since 2011. The company however, has been in existence for over 13 years beginning at Cornell University. They would like to lease the space at 91 Mystic Street (formerly Harlow Scientific) and relocate their business to Arlington with a target date of July 13, 2015. He stated the company performs contract research and development for the pharmaceutical industry, and small scale production and manufacturing of drug discovery reagents, as well as work with the Malaria Vaccine. Dr. Colussi reiterated the reagents are non-toxic, non-hazardous recombinant proteins produced using *Tetrahymena*, which is commonly found in fresh water ponds. The lab in Cambridge is classified as a Biosafety level 1 (BSL-1). He stated they do not use any human derived cell lines or products and the micro-organisms are non-pathogenic. They do no animal testing and have no animals in their labs.

Beth Graham, Consulting Safety Officer with Safety Partners Inc. has contracted with Tetragenetics for many years and provided to the Board a detailed outline of all safety procedures and the emergency action plan. (Copies of which were provided to the Board with the Application). She is a standing member of Tetragenetics Institutional Biosafety Committee and also provided the resumes of all members of the Institution Biosafety Committee.

Ms. Morgen Bergman Sarpeshkar, an Arlington resident, currently serves as the Community Member on this Committee, and would like to continue to serve as the Arlington Community Member if Tetragenetics is granted a permit and relocates to Arlington.

Tetragenetics, Inc. reported they currently hold Permits in Cambridge for

- rDNA
- MWRA
- Flammable Materials (Cambridge Fire Department) and
- Hazardous Waste (Mass DEP)

Safety related contracts are held with:

Mount Auburn Occupational Health Clinic
Veolia (Hazardous Waste Removal)
MWRA
Waste Management
Laundry Services for Lab Coats
Pest Control, and
Air Systems

Mr. Feeney informed the Board the Office would hire an independent consultant to assist with inspecting the facility. The annual permit fee at this time is \$500.00.

A Motion was made by Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick which was seconded by Mr. Kenneth Kohlberg, to approve the application for a permit to work with recombinant DNA and Biological Agents to Tetragenetics, Inc. to operate a BSL-1 lab at the location of 91 Mystic Street contingent upon Tetragenetics meeting all requirements of the April 11, 2012 Biosafety and Recombinant DNA Regulations.

Vote: Motion Approved Unanimously (3 - 0)

Hearing: Housing Code Violations – 97 Bow Street

Tabled to future date at request of home owner.

Tobacco Updates, correspondence received.

Arlington Health and Human Services received a letter from CRR (Coalition for Responsible Retailing) which was distributed to the Board. Ms. Waden informed the Board that the Mass Health Officer has responded to this letter which was sent to many communities.

The Board of Health has conducted its first round of retail checks. She stated there is much confusion regarding “flavored tobacco products”. Retailers would like a detailed list of what flavored products are allowed or are banned. No fines will be instituted at this time, and further education will be provided.

Natalie Miller has replaced Wesley Chin as the Director of the Five Community Collaborative for tobacco control.

Environmental Updates

Ms. Natasha Waden informed the Board the Department of Health & Human Services was called to assist in the response to a four-alarm fire at Brookside Condominiums located at Arizona Terrace on May 5th. She stated the emergency management preparation was evident in this tragic situation where a man lost his life. Mr. James Feeney outlined the role of staff members in coordinating efforts both on-site and within the Community, and

reported many units of housing have been lost. He praised the work of the Arlington Police Department, Arlington Fire Department, Red Cross, and the Housing Corporation of Arlington who have worked diligently to assist victims of this fire.

Ms. Waden informed the Board that Arlington is participating in the voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards. As part of this process they met with mentors from Lake County, OH to review our systems and procedures towards the implementation of the 9 standards. The mentors provided advice on how to best proceed with the Standards. The Office applied for and received a grant from NAACHO to begin assessing existing policies and procedures.

Restaurant Updates

Change of Ownership

- Maria's Pizzeria
- Kathmandu
- Francesca's Kitchen
- Junior's Variety
- Za'atar (potential change of ownership)

New Establishment

- Sweet Haven (plan review packet)

Public Health Nurse Updates

Ms. Natasha Waden informed the Board a Public Health Nurse has been hired. Ms. Kara Katz will begin on Friday May 29th. Mark Waksmonski, the COA Geriatric Nurse Clinician has been filling in the role of Public Health Nurse to ensure a smooth transition.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting: June 24, 2015 (NOTE: CANCELLED)